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SEMYON K. TSVIGUN, OF THE K.G.B., DIES

Highest Ranking Career Officer
in Soviet Intelligence and
Security Agency Was 65

By SERGE SCHMEMANN

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, Jan. 20 — Gen. Semyon Kuzmich Tsvigun, the deputy head of the K.G.B., the Soviet intelligence and internal security agency, died Tuesday at the age of 64, it was announced today.

General Tsvigun was believed to be married to a sister of Leonid I. Brezhnev's wife, Viktoriya, but this has never been officially confirmed.

In contrast to the secrecy surrounding most K.G.B. personnel, General Tsvigun was something of a public figure. He served in the provinces for 16 years before assuming his post at headquarters in Moscow in 1967. He was the highest ranking career officer in the K.G.B. under Yuri V. Andropov, a party official who has headed the agency for most of the Brezhnev period.

General Tsvigun appeared from time to time in ideological publications. In an article last September in the party journal *Kommunist*, he said the dissident movement had been routed.

High Civilian Award in 1977

The press took note in 1977 when he received the title of Hero of Socialist Labor, the highest civilian award; in 1978, when he was promoted to full general, and last year, when he advanced from alternate to full member in the party's Central Committee.

Born Sept. 27, 1917, into a Ukrainian peasant family, he was graduated in 1937 from the Odessa Teachers College and taught school for two years before joining the secret police. His 42-year career with the state security agency was interrupted only by service in the Red Army in World War II.

In 1951, he was posted to the Moldavian Republic on the Rumanian border at a time when Mr. Brezhnev was the party chief there. Four years later, General Tsvigun was sent to the Central Asian republic of Tadzhikistan; and for four years, he served as K.G.B. chief in the Transcaucasian republic of Azerbaijan.

In late 1967, he was brought back to Moscow and made the agency's First Deputy Chairman. An official obituary today said his memory would be cherished by all Chekists, as K.G.B. personnel are known, for the Cheka, the initial name of the Soviet secret police.

Some Publicity for the K.G.B.

The prominence given his death was in keeping with a trend toward giving the K.G.B. measured publicity, both in its foreign intelligence activities and in safeguarding internal security.

General Tsvigun's article in *Kommunist* last fall offered a candid list of trends and movements considered subversive. He said the dissident movement, which he described as an attempt by the West to subvert the Communist system, had been crushed, but he warned of new forms of subversion.

They were said to be associated with Western reports on Soviet consumer shortages, the emigration movement



Tam/Associated Press

Gen. Semyon K. Tsvigun

among Jews, ethnic Germans and Armenians, various émigré groups abroad, and the affinity of Soviet young people for the Western way of life.